3.12. SOCIO-ECONOMIC

INTRODUCTION

Idaho County has approximately 15,000 people living within its boundaries. While it is the largest county in Idaho, much of the population is concentrated due to the large tracts of publicly owned lands.

The Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project released a report that examines the economic and social conditions of 543 communities in the Upper Columbia River Basin (USDA Forest Service 1998). The analysis looked at geographic isolation, community specialization in different industries, and association with Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management administered lands.

The study concluded that isolated towns such as Elk City are different from non-isolated towns in that a higher percent of the population may be more specialized in agriculture, wood products, mining, or Federal Government, and have a high percent of Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management lands within a 20-mile radius. Forest Service offices such as Elk City Ranger Station contribute tangible economic and social benefits, through jobs, buildings, utilities, and community support.

Timber dependent communities were defined as those in which primary forest products manufacturing facilities provided 10 percent or more of the total employment in the community. The scientific assessment for the Columbia River Basin project concluded that in the entire Columbia River Basin 29 communities were considered timber dependent. Elk City is one of these.

SCOPE AND METHOD OF THE ANALYSIS

The Nez Perce National Forest Plan EIS, p. IV-26 and 27, describes the economic impacts of implementing the Forest Plan. This analysis incorporates the Forest Plan EIS Appendix B in its entirety and specifically pages B-51 through B-142 that address the economic analysis process and values placed on non-consumptive items such as recreation opportunities, community stability, cultural resources, habitats, and populations. This economic analysis will not revisit the information presented in the Forest Plan and will focus only on those costs and revenues associated with implementing any of the proposed alternatives in the American-Crooked EIS analysis area. The purpose of the economic analysis presented here is to display revenues and costs associated with each alternative for comparison purposes.

Economic conditions are constantly changing locally, regionally and nationally. Market prices fluctuate widely. Current local timber market prices are considered to be down. Timber values used in this assessment are based upon April 2004 delivered log (DL) prices obtained from Bennett Forest Industries of Elk City, Three Rivers of Kamiah, Clearwater Forest Industries of Kooskia, and are available through Idaho Department of Lands, Maggie Creek Area. The full analysis is documented in the project file.

The direct impact of the action alternatives on local employment (see Table 3.108) was assessed using an IMPLAN model. IMPLAN is an economic impact assessment modeling system that allows the user to build economic models to estimate the impacts of economic changes in their states, counties, or communities. The FS uses IMPLAN to model and estimate the regional/local economic impacts of such things as forest plan revision alternatives, policy changes, and management decisions.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

Long term and cumulative effects of individual projects on the overall social and economic environment are generally difficult to quantify with accuracy and beyond the scope of this analysis.

Local employment would be directly supported by all action alternatives and secondary economic activity would be indirectly supported. Employment opportunities that are a direct result of action alternative activities include work in road maintenance, stream and riparian restoration, logging and fuel removal, trucking activities, wood product mills, burning activities, and agency jobs. Indirect economic benefits also occur in basic support businesses such as fuel, food, repairs, lodging, etc.

Any of the action alternatives would help maintain a variety of jobs. It is reasonable to assume contracting locally will generate local jobs and more dollars spent in local communities. Conversely, there will be fewer local jobs and dollars spent locally when contracts or resources are awarded or purchased non-locally.

Table 3.108: Direct Employment Effects

Project Type	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E
Restoration/Reforestation	32	37	45	39
Hazardous Fuel Reduction	10	13	19	11
Forest Products	121	138	173	102
Total Jobs	163	188	237	152

ADDITIONAL INDIRECT EFFECTS

Recreation-based services related to activities including hunting, fishing, backpacking, river floating, sightseeing, gathering of berries and mushrooms, and firewood cutting contribute to the local economy. Studies indicate that big game hunting, primarily elk, and fishing, primarily salmon and steelhead, provide or have the potential to provide a major contribution to the local economy in and around Idaho County. (Cooper, A.B., et al. 2002, Reading, D. 1996 and 2002.)

Current levels of recreation-based economic activity would not be appreciably affected by any of the action alternatives in this proposal, with the possible exception of hunting and fishing. All of the action alternatives would result in positive trends in elk habitat and anadromous fish habitat potential, which may result in some degree of increase in this segment of the economy.

PROJECTED REVENUE AND COST OF IMPLEMENTATION

The following tables display the revenues and costs associated with each acti**o**n alternative. The yarding costs per mbf displayed below are those incurred stump-to-mill.

ALTERNATIVE B

Table 3.109 – Alternative B

Item	Cost/Unit	Units	Costs	Revenue
Delivered Log Price (mbf)	$334	17,800		$5,945,200
Roadside Slvg Delivered Log Price (mbf)	$234	558		$130,572
Roadside Slvg. w/ Lop & Scatter mbf)	$160	558	$89,280	
Tractor Logging (mbf)	$140	9,725	$1,361,500	
Cable/Skyline Logging (mbf)	$175	8,075	$1,413,125	
Broadcast Burn Fuels (acre)	$480	434	$208,320	
Underburn Fuels (acre)	$491	504	$247,464	
Excavator Pile & Burn (acre)	$278	1,145	$318,310	
Reforestation (acre)	$490	602	$294,980	
Reforestation Exams (3) (acre)	$48	1,863	$89,424	
Temp Road Construction & Oblit (mile)	$13,000	7.9	$102,700	
Road Reconstruct/Recondition (mile)	$21,951	79.4	$154,812	
SUBTOTAL			**$4,279,915**	**$6,075,772**
Road Decommissioning (miles)	$6,419	14.9	$95,643	
Watershed Road Improvements (mile)	$1,600	15.2	$24,320	
Watershed Road Improvement (sites)	$10,000	1	$10,000	
Stream Crossing Improvement (sites)	$12,400	10	$124,000	
Instream Improvement (miles)	$12,000	15.2	$182,400	
Rec & Trail Improvements (miles)	$6,276	2.9	$18,200	
Mine Site Reclamation (acres)	$2,143	7	$15,001	
Soil Restoration (acres)	$2,544	18	$45,792	
Reforestation, nonessential (acres)	$490	517	$253,330	
SUBTOTAL			**$768,687**	**$0**
TOTALS			**$5,048,601**	**$6,075,772**

Table 3.110 – Alternative C

Item	Cost/Unit	Units	Costs	Revenue
Delivered Log Price (mbf)	$334	20,300		$6,780,200
Roadside Slvg Delivered Log Price (mbf)	$234	546		$127,764
Roadside Slvg. w/ Lop & Scatter (mbf)	$160	546	$87,360	
Tractor Logging (mbf)	$140	10,490	$1,468,600	
Cable/Skyline Logging (mbf)	$175	9,810	$1,716,750	
Broadcast Burn Fuels (acre)	$480	536	$257,280	
Underburn Fuels (acre)	$491	574	$281,834	
Excavator Pile & Burn (acre)	$278	1,187	$329,986	
Reforestation (acre)	$490	634	$310,660	
Reforestation Exams (3) (acre)	$48	2,091	$100,368	
Temp Road Construction & Oblit (mile)	$13,000	14.3	$185,900	
Road Reconstruct/Recondition (mile)	$2,232	83.9	$194,625	
SUBTOTAL			**$4,933,363**	**$6,907,964**
Road Decommissioning (miles)	$6,840	17.9	$122,436	
Watershed Road Improvements (mile)	$2,134	15.8	$33,717	
Watershed Road Improvement (sites)	$3,667	3	$11,001	
Stream Crossing Improvement (sites)	$12,400	10	$124,000	
Instream Improvement (miles)	$14,082	15.8	$222,496	
Rec & Trail Improvements (miles)	$6,276	2.9	$18,200	
Rec & Trail Improvements (acres)	$7,500	4	$30,000	
Mine Site Reclamation (acres)	$2,143	7	$15,001	
Soil Restoration (acres)	$2,735	26	$71,110	
Reforestation, nonessential (acres)	$490	648	$317,520	
SUBTOTAL			**$965,481**	**$0**
TOTALS			**$5,898,844**	**$6,907,964**

Table 3.111 – Alternative D

Item	Cost/Unit	Units	Costs	Revenue
Delivered Log Price (mbf)	$337	25,400		$8,559,800
Roadside Slvg Delivered Log Price (mbf)	$236	591		$139,476
Roadside Slvg. w/ Lop & Scatter (mbf)	$160	591	$94,560	
Tractor Logging (mbf)	$140	14,900	$2,086,000	
Cable/Skyline Logging (mbf)	$175	10,500	$1,837,500	
Broadcast Burn Fuels (acre)	$480	547	$262,560	
Underburn Fuels (acre)	$491	660	$324,060	
Excavator Pile & Burn (acre)	$278	1,729	$480,662	
Reforestation (acre)	$490	731	$358,190	
Reforestation Exams (3) (acre)	$48	2,583	$123,984	
Temp Road Construction & Oblit (mile)	$13,000	14.3	$185,900	
Road Reconstruct/Recondition (mile)	$2,997	90.7	$236,987	
SUBTOTAL			**$5,990,403**	**$8,699,276**
Road Decommissioning (miles)	$6,928	19.0	$131,632	
Watershed Road Improvements (mile)	$1,596	15.8	$25,217	
Watershed Road Improvement (sites)	$3,667	3	$11,001	
Stream Crossing Improvement (sites)	$12,417	12	$149,004	
Instream Improvement (miles)	$14,082	15.8	$222,496	
Rec & Trail Improvements (miles)	$6,276	2.9	$18,200	
Rec & Trail Improvements (acres)	$7,500	4	$30,000	
Mine Site Reclamation (acres)	$2,143	7	$15,001	
Soil Restoration (acres)	$2,775	32	$88,800	
Reforestation, nonessential (acres)	$490	908	$444,920	
SUBTOTAL			**$1,136,271**	**$0**
TOTALS			**$7,126,674**	**$8,699,276**

Table 3.112 – Alternative E

Item	Cost/Unit	Units	Costs	Revenue
Delivered Log Price (mbf)	$329	15,100		$4,967,900
Roadside Slvg Delivered Log Price (mbf)	$230	542.00		$124,660
Roadside Slvg. w/ Lop & Scatter (mbf)	$160	542.00	$86,720	
Tractor Logging (mbf)	$140	7,960	$1,114,400	
Cable/Skyline Logging (mbf)	$175	7,140	$1,249,500	
Broadcast Burn Fuels (acre)	$480	311	$149,280	
Underburn Fuels (acre)	$491	441	$216,531	
Excavator Pile & Burn (acre)	$278	854	$237,412	
Reforestation (acre)	$490	342	$167,580	
Reforestation Exams (3) (acre)	$48	1,408	$67,584	
Temp Road Construction & Oblit (mile)	$13,000	5.4	$70,200	
Road Reconstruct/Recondition (mile)	$2,244	69.7	$141,671	
SUBTOTAL			**$3,500,878**	**$5,092,560**
Road Decommissioning (miles)	$6,497	37.5	$243,638	
Watershed Road Improvements (mile)	$3,854	23.8	$91,725	
Watershed Road Improvement (sites)	$3,667	3	$11,001	
Stream Crossing Improvement (sites)	$23,353	34	$794,002	
Instream Improvement (miles)	$30,996	23.8	$737,705	
Rec & Trail Improvements (miles)	$5,771	4.8	$27,701	
Rec & Trail Improvements (acres)	$7,500	4	$30,000	
Mine Site Reclamation (acres)	$2,778	9	$25,002	
Soil Restoration (acres)	$2,572	58	$149,176	
Reforestation, nonessential (acres)	$490	376	$184,240	
SUBTOTAL			**$2,294,189**	**$0**
TOTALS			**$5,795,067**	**$5,092,560**